

Remarks by Under Secretary Dallas Tonsager, Under Secretary of Rural Development

I want to thank everyone for joining us today, along with our guest speakers who are here representing the manufacturing world. We're fortunate to have a rep from one of the largest companies in the world—Intel—who will discuss how they scout rural locations to set up Advanced Manufacturing operations. You'll also hear how industrial parks and manufacturing operations in rural America have leveraged government-financed high-speed Internet. There are numerous federal incentives and financing opportunities at your disposal, and you'll hear more about those today.

Manufacturing & Jobs

As most of you know, manufacturing began leaving our shores even before the recession began. But the US remains the world's largest manufacturer, and the Obama Administration has been working very hard to bring back those American manufacturing jobs that *were* lost. For the first time since the 1990s, the manufacturing sector is creating jobs. In just the past two years, **the economy added 429,000 manufacturing jobs.**

To support this revival in manufacturing, the President proposed tax incentives for manufacturers, enhanced training for the workforce, and taken measures to create manufacturing hubs. This Administration has already provided tax breaks to help domestic businesses grow and invest and has offered incentives for the manufacturing industries of the future.

In 2010 the President's National Export Initiative set the ambitious goal of doubling U.S. exports, an achievement that would support millions of jobs—**and today we are on track to meet that goal ahead of schedule.** The Administration has made progress expanding global trade opportunities by advancing free trade agreements, enforcing U.S. companies' rights under existing trade agreements, and strengthening trade relationships in major emerging markets. This President is pushing for new tax

cuts to encourage hiring, expanding the research and experimentation tax credit, and reforming the corporate tax code.

Energy

Manufacturers based in the U.S. have also been able to take advantage of a boom in domestic energy production. We've seen a surge in American natural gas production, which has lowered energy costs, reduced pollution, and driven investment in the industries that supply equipment to the natural gas sector and those that use natural gas to fuel production—all of which have helped firms make the decision to keep jobs in the U.S.

Rural America

And on behalf of rural Americans, President Obama's Administration has taken historic steps to put people back to work and to build thriving economies in rural communities. From proposing the American Jobs Act to establishing the first-ever White House Rural Council – chaired by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack – the President is committed to smarter use of existing Federal resources that would foster sustainable economic prosperity and ensure the government is a strong partner for businesses, entrepreneurs, and working families in rural communities.

Final Messaging

That's why the President laid out a blueprint for an economy that's built to last – an economy built on American manufacturing, American energy, skills for American workers, and a renewal of American values. The President will continue to work to bring about a new era of American manufacturing, with more good jobs and more products with the label “Made in the USA.” The President believes this is a make or break moment for the middle class and those working to reach it. What's at stake is the very survival of the basic American promise that if you work hard, you can do well enough to raise a family, own a home, and put

enough away for retirement, and the strength of the American manufacturing sector will play a significant role ensuring that all this remains possible.